

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03812 290622Z

16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 101250

R 290550Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1384
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T JIDDA 3812

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SU, SA
SUBJECT: MAJOR SAUDI MILITARY GRANT FOR SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 1248

SUMMARY:

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS WHY THE SAG WOULD PROVIDE ARMS ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDAN. CHIEF AMONG THEM WOULD BE THE DESIRE TO HELP NIMEIRI, WHOM THE SAUDIS REGARD AS A MODERATE LEADER, TO MAINTAIN HIS POSITION. THE SAUDIS ARE ALSO WORRIED ABOUT THE APPARENT GROWTH OF SOVIET-LEADING RADICAL REGIMES ON THE RED SEA LITTORAL. THEY MIGHT WANT TO SEE THE SUDAN STRENGTHENED MILITARILY AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO THESE RADICAL REGIMES. WE FIND IT TOTALLY IMPLAUSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SAG WOULD GIVE ARMS ASSISTANCE WITH THE THOUGHT THAT SUDANESE ARMED FORCES MIGHT AT SOME TIME BE AVAILABLE TO HELP THE SAUDI ARMY IN A SHOWDOWN WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD--A MOST UNLIKELY EVENTUALITY IN ANY CASE. ALL OTHER REASONS ASIDE, THE LEADER WHO BROUGHT IN FOREIGN TROOPS TO PROP UP HIS POSITION WOULD QUICKLY LOSE THE SUPPORT OF HIS OWN SOLDIERY. END SUMMARY.

1. NOTORIOUS SAUDI FINANCIER AND ALL AROUND WHEELER DEALER, ADNAN KHASHOGGI, HAS FOR SOME TIME HAD AN INTEREST

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03812 290622Z

IN DOING BUSINESS WITH THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT. HE IS ALSO THE

AGENT FOR A NUMBER OF LARGE FIRMS IN THE ARMS FIELD, INCLUDING SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT US FIRMS. AS SUCH HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN QUITE A FEW MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ARMS ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SAG. HE HAS OBVIOUSLY HAD DEALINGS IN THIS CAPACITY WITH SAUDI MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE ALSO HAS HAD BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD.

2. THERE IS CERTAINLY NOTHING IMPLAUSIBLE IN KHASHOGGI'S BEING INVOLVED IN A SAUDI PROGRAM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDAN. HIS MOTIVE FOR INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE CLEAR ENOUGH: PROFIT.

3. THERE IS ALSO LOGIC BEHIND A PROGRAM OF SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT. THE SAG VIEWS THE NIMEIRI GOVERNMENT AS MODERATE AND WORTHY OF SUPPORT. (THE SAG HAS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS APPROACHED THE AMBASSADOR TO URGE USG SUPPORT FOR THE GOS, NIMEIRI'S ACTION IN RELEASING THE KHARTOUM MURDERERS NOTWITHSTANDING.) THE SAG HAS PROBABLY CONCLUDED THAT THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE SUDANESE ARMED FORCES IS A KEY ELEMENT TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE NIMEIRI REGIME. THE KIND OF RELATIVELY MODEST MILITARY PROGRAM OUTLINED REFTTEL SEEMS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE NIMEIRI'S POSITION. THERE COULD BE OTHER, STRATEGIC, REASONS FOR AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; THE SAG IS CONCERNED ABOUT STABILITY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RED SEA AND MIGHT EVEN SEE THE SUDAN AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO A FUTURE INDEPENDENT AND RADICALLY-ORIENTED ERITREA.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE LATE KING FAISAL AND OMAR SAQQAF WERE OPPOSED TO AN ARMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO THE SUDAN. FAISAL CONDUCTED A CAUTIOUS FOREIGN POLICY AND, WHILE GENEROUS, WAS SLOW TO GIVE AWAY SAUDI MONEY. SAUDI ARABIA'S NEW LEADERSHIP UNDER CROWN PRINCE FAHD IS DEMONSTRATING A WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE ARAB WORLD AND IN THE GULF AND THE RED SEA AREAS. HE IS PERHAPS ALSO MORE READY TO SPEND MONEY TO ACCOMPLISH FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES.

5. WE FIND IT TOTALLY IMPLAUSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT SAUDI
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 03812 290622Z

SUPPORT FOR THE SUDANESE MILITARY COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH A DESIRE TO IN SOME WAY USE SUDANESE ARMED FORCES IN THE SAUDI INTERIOR EQUATION. UNDER PRESENT AND PRESENTLY FORSEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE SAUDI ARMY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN AND THE NATIONAL GUARD UNDER ITS COMMANDER, SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRINCE ABDULLAH, IS MOST UNLIKELY. WERE SUCH THING TO COME ABOUT (AND THERE ARE CIRCUMSTANCES

INVOLVING THE DEATH OF SOME SAUDI LEADERS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT CONCEIVABLE) WE CANNOT IMAGINE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH SUDANESE ARMED FORCES MIGHT BE USED. APART FROM THE LOGISTIC PROBLEM OF EMPLOYING SUDANESE TROOPS IN WHAT WOULD BE A VERY FAST-MOVING SITUATION, IS THE FACT THAT NO FOREIGNERS (WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ELEMENTS FROM TRIBES STRADDLING SAUDI ARABIA'S BORDERS) COULD BE USED WITHOUT TURNING POPULAR SENTIMENT--WHICH WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN THIS KIND OF STRUGGLE--AGAINST THE PARTY WHICH UTILIZED THEM. IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF THE SAUDI ARMY UNDER THE COMMAND OF SULTAN, WE DON'T THINK THAT IT WOULD LONG SUPPORT A LEADER WHICH BROUGHT IN FOREIGN TROOPS.

AKINS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA03812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750187-0489
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750510/aaaaaims.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 KHARTOUM 1248
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR SAUDI MILITARY GRANT FOR SUDAN
TAGS: MASS, SU, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006